

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

TRSE-00 SAB-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /109 W

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R 032310Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNRWA

SUBJ: UNRWA DEFICIT

REF: USUN 4690

1. SYG'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT HENNIG TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR BENNETT MORNING OCTOBER 3 ON DIRECTION SYG TO RAISE MATTER OF UNRWA AGAIN. HE SAID THAT SIR JOHN RENNIE IS "FRANTIC" OVER THE SITUATION. \$30 MILLION IS NEEDED TO KEEP UNRWA GOING UNTIL THE END OF 1975. UNLESS THE MONEY IS FOUND SOMEWHERE SYG WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO SUSPENDING OPERATIONS AS OF OCTOBER 31. HENNIG URGED THAT U.S. CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LIQUIDATION OF UNRWA ON UN AND U.S. MUTUAL OBJECTIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. HENNIG WENT ON TO SAY CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO INCLUDING FUNDS FOR UNRWA IN REGULAR UN BUDGET, BUT TIME FACTOR WAS SUCH THAT THIS COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TIME TO HELP IN PRESENT SITUATION. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE DAMAGE THAT WOULD BE DONE TO WHOLE MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS BY AN UNRWA COLLAPSE. HE SAID SYG THOUGHT HE HAD NO RECOURSE BUT TO "RELY ON U.S." IT IS FIVE MINUTES TO TWELVE, SAID HENNIG DRAMATICALLY.

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3. BENNETT RESPONDED THAT WE HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR UNRWA. IT WAS TOO BAD THAT OTHERS DID NOT SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPERATION. IT WAS TIME FOR OTHERS, INCLUDING THE NEWLY RICH OIL COUNTRIES, TO TAKE UP SOME OF THE BURDEN. HENNIG ACKNOWLEDGED BASIS OF THESE POINTS BUT SAID THERE SEEMED NO HOPE ELSEWHERE. HE REPEATED THAT THEY HAD TO RELY ON US.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS ADMITTEDLY SERIOUS SITUATION, BUT SYG IS PLAINLY TRYING SCARE TECHNIQUES ON US.
BENNETT

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